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SANITARY LEGISLATION.

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Morbidity Reports—Scabies—Impetigo Contagiosa. (Reg. Bd. of H., Jan. 3, 1913.)

Fifth. All physicians practicing within the limits of the State shall make an immediate report of each and every case of scabies and impetigo contagiosa.

Common Drinking Cups—Common Towels—Barber's Brushes—Eating Utensils. (Reg. Bd. of H., Jan. 3, 1913.)

First. Those responsible for establishing or conducting any public drinking place in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are hereby forbidden to furnish or permit others to furnish or keep any common drinking vessel for common use at any such drinking place provided this rule and regulation shall not preclude the use of vessels which are cleansed by washing in boiling water or are disinfected or destroyed after individual use. Public places within the meaning of this regulation shall include common carriers, private, public, parochial or Sunday schools, industries, factories, theaters, shops, offices, hotels, etc.

Second. No person, persons or corporation within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall furnish for public use any towel unless such towel be laundered or discarded after each individual use.

Third. Barbers are hereby forbidden to use a common brush for brushing the eyes of their patrons unless such brush be disinfected after each individual use.

Fourth. Proprietors or persons in charge of public eating places are hereby forbidden to use drinking vessels, dishes, spoons, knives, forks, finger bowls and other eating utensils which have not been thoroughly cleansed after each individual use.

Statistics of Diseases, Births, Marriages, and Deaths—To be Compiled by the Central Bureau of Vital Statistics. (Act 404, July 16, 1913.)

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted, etc.,* That all statistics of births, marriages, deaths, diseases; of practitioners of medicine and surgery; midwives, nurses, and undertakers; and all persons whose occupations is deemed to be of importance in obtaining complete registration of births, deaths, marriages, and diseases, or other vital statistics, now compiled by the department of health, or required by any subsequent law or laws to be so obtained, collected, compiled, and preserved, shall be obtained, collected, compiled, and preserved by and in the central bureau of vital statistics, created by the said act, approved May 1, A. D. 1905 (Pamphlet Laws, 330), to be maintained as a bureau of the department of health, under the general supervision of the commissioner of health and the immediate direction of the State registrar of vital statistics appointed by the said commissioner of health, under existing laws.

SEC. 2. The State registrar of vital statistics shall receive an annual salary at the rate of \$4,000.

[NOTE.—In drafting legislation relating to the collection of morbidity reports State boards of health should remember that the most important function served by the notification of cases is the giving of prompt and current information to the epidemiologic branch of the health department for guidance in the control of disease. There can be no objection to having the Bureau of Vital Statistics or other statistical office take the case reports after they have served their purpose in the Epidemiologic Bureau and compile and tabulate them by the statistical method for further use. Having the Bureau of Vital Statistics perform this statistical compilation would be an economy; in fact, there would seem to be no reason why it would not be an economy for a State government to have but one statistical office to perform all its statistical work, in the same way that one printing establishment would do all its printing. A statistical office is simply a common servant doing work for others, the same as a printing establishment. It does not use the statistics it prepares. That is left to others. Making the collection of morbidity reports the duty of a statistical office is fraught with the possible danger that the morbidity reports may be treated merely as so much statistical data for compilation and tabulation, to be available only in printed form annually and then probably at times to relate to data several years old. Morbidity reports should finally serve as the data for morbidity statistics, but their greatest usefulness and their most important function to the health department are the information they give the epidemiologist as to where his activities are needed.—EDITOR.]

Appropriations. (Act 407, July 16, 1913.)

The appropriations are for two fiscal years, June 1, 1913, to May 31, 1915.

Quarantine physician, Philadelphia.

For the payment of the salary of the quarantine physician.....	\$10, 00
For the payment of the salaries of 2 deputy maritime physicians.....	8, 000
For the payment of the salary of the quarantine messenger, two years.....	2, 000
For the payment of the salaries of 8 shore employees, including nurse (\$12,770), approved by the governor for.....	10, 770
For the payment of the salaries of 9 employees on the boat (\$14,750), approved by the governor for.....	12, 750
For the payment of insurance on the boat and launch.....	900
For maintenance of the boat, including fuel (\$10,000), approved by the governor for.....	5, 000
For maintenance of all employees, including uniforms and caps.....	8, 000
For the purchase of drugs.....	600
For the purchase of coal for heating shore buildings.....	2, 500
For maintenance of the office, including \$1,000 for service of maritime exchange in reporting all incoming and outgoing vessels, rent and care of office, stationery, telephone and telegraph service, and for like expenses at the office at Marcus Hook.....	4, 500
For maintenance of the quarantine station, including all supplies, repairs, water and gas supply, labor, painting, plumbing, carpenter work, feed for horses, necessary improvements and additions to buildings, new buildings, and any and all expenses incident to maintaining the grounds and buildings and the furnishing the equipping of the same, as well as repairs to wharf and tramway (\$20,980), approved by the governor for.....	15, 980
	<u>81, 000</u>

Health officer, Philadelphia.

For the payment of the salary of the health officer.....	10, 000
For the payment of the salary of the clerk to the health officer.....	2, 400
For the payment of the rent and care of the office of the health officer, telephone and messenger and stationery (\$2,640), approved by the governor for.....	1, 640
	<u>14, 040</u>